

a backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range for providing general buoyancy to a wearer, said backsheet including an inner surface for presentation toward a wearer and an outer surface for presentation away from a wearer; and

a plurality of raised portions integrally carried by said backsheet in fixed relative positions for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body, each of said raised portions comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said backsheet and each of said raised portions extending outwardly from said outer surface of said backsheet

wherein said plurality of raised portions include an upper torso portion and a lower torso portion and said retaining pocket includes a sheet of fabric, said sheet of fabric being laminated to the outwardly disposed surface of said unitary floatation element to ensure that said fabric sheet closely matches the contours of said backsheet and enhanced buoyancy regions of said unitary floatation element.

5. (Amended) A unitary floatation element for use in a floatation swimsuit, said floatation element comprising:

a backsheet contained within a torso covering including a right arm covering, a left arm covering, a left leg covering, and a right leg covering, said backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range for providing general buoyancy to a wearer, said backsheet including an inner surface for presentation toward a wearer and an outer surface for presentation away from a wearer;

a plurality of raised portions integrally carried by said backsheet in fixed relative positions for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body, each of said raised portions comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said backsheet and each of said raised portions extending outwardly from said outer surface of said backsheet

wherein said plurality of raised portions include an upper torso portion and a lower torso portion and said retaining pocket includes a sheet of fabric, said sheet of fabric being